

Amendments to the Specification

In the Detailed Description of the Invention section, please amend paragraphs [0026] and [0045] as follows:

[0026] Fig. 1 illustrates a logical link or trunk group 134 connecting a destination 112 to a multistage switch 100 according to the principles of the present invention. The multistage switch 100 includes a matrix of coupled switch devices 106-1, . . . 106-2n, 1081, . . . 108-n, 110-1, . . . 110-n, 114-1, . . . 114-n organized in rows and columns. Each row 104-1, . . . 104-n includes five switch devices. As shown, row 104-1 includes two fan in/fan out devices 106-1, 106-2, a stage-1 device 108-1, a stage-2 device 110-1 and a stage-3 device ~~112-1~~ 114-1. To provide redundancy especially, members of trunk group 134 are distributed among the rows in the multistage switch.

[0045] A frame received at external port 1 for trunk group T1 can be forwarded through any member of the trunk group. For example, the frame can be forwarded through external port 0 or external ~~port 1~~ port 2 in logical fan-in/fan-out device 200-1.